

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 15 and 17 have been cancelled, claims 16 and 18-20 have been amended, and new claims 21-22 have been added. Accordingly, claims 16 and 18-22 are pending in the present application.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph. With the cancellation of claim 15, this rejection is deemed moot.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph. In response, claim 19 has been amended to be in full compliance with all §112 requirements. In addition, claim 19 has been amended to be in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As the only outstanding rejection of claim 19 is the §112 rejection, which has now been corrected, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is now in condition for allowance. Notification of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art of Figs. 11 and 12 in view of to Sekine et al. (EP0563929), and further in view of Takeda et al. (JP07-015395). With the cancellation of claims 15 and 17, this rejection is deemed moot.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art of Figs. 11 and 12 in view of Sekine et al., in view of Takeda et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,459,790 to Scofield et al. In response, claim 16 has been amended to be dependent upon allowable claim 18.

Application No. 09/594,995
Amendment dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2005

Docket No.: T2171.0185

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and indication of allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

New claims 21 and 22 have been added to more fully cover the scope of the present invention. Each of claims 21 and 22 depend from allowable claims 19 and 20, respectively. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance of new claims 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the present application with claims 16 and 18-22 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Dated: January 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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